

FOR MEMBERS OF PEARL RIVER VALLEY ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

# TODAY

IN MISSISSIPPI

## LYNYRD SKYNYRD'S SACRED GROUND



SPRING IS  
ALMOST HERE

GHOSTBUSTING

ST. PADDY'S  
CORNED BEEF

MARCH 2021



# Uri and Viola visit the Deep South

Communities in Mississippi are accustomed to dealing with the aftermaths of storms, tornadoes and hurricanes. When you call the Deep South home, it comes with the territory.

But last month our state grappled with something that happens much less frequently — winter storms.

On Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day — the state was hit by Winter Storm Uri and then, just a few days later, Winter Storm Viola blasted its way through before we had time to pick up the pieces from Uri.

The power outages were severe. Because the storms struck one after the other, some of the electric cooperative systems and members were impacted by both. During Viola, outages peaked at 110,000 homes and businesses with no power.

Electric cooperatives live and serve by The Cooperative Way — seven core principles. One of those principles is Cooperation Among Cooperatives. Mutual aid assistance between Mississippi's electric cooperatives as well as from co-ops from nearby states was the key to restoring power as quickly, safely and efficiently as possible. State co-ops sent work crews to other Mississippi co-ops to assist in power restoration. Some of the crews sent to help were exhausted after working long hours on the first storm.

Additional challenges arose when co-op work crews from other states were sent to Mississippi and they had to maneuver through icy roads and find lodging when hotels were packed with local residents seeking power and heat. The out of state work crews were limited because the outages created by the two storms crippled areas from Texas to the east coast.

But thanks to mutual aid and cooperation among cooperatives, power was restored to our members in a safe and timely manner.

And although we think of our linemen as our rock stars — and they are — they couldn't do their jobs without the support of the cooperative employees who work behind the scenes. Co-op workers take outage calls, set up meals and post social media to keep members informed of the latest news.

Co-op warehouse workers make sure our linemen have all the tools and materials they need to perform their tasks safely and efficiently. Co-op dispatchers ensure planning for outage repair for optimal results. Workers in co-op shops make sure the trucks and vehicles are running properly for outage response. Substation technicians go out before the bad weather arrives to preemptively make sure equipment is ready for the incoming storm event.

Each cooperative works as a team to make sure our communities experience safe power delivery.

In that spirit, we want to thank our members for your patience and our cooperative employees for your hard work and dedication. ❄️



**by Michael Callahan**

Executive Vice President/CEO  
Electric Cooperatives  
of Mississippi



## Mississippi is...

*"Where I'm from"*

*I am from front porch swings, from pond raised catfish and creek banks.*

*I am from the modest dwelling on the hill.*

*I am from clothes hanging out on the line, from Ford truck beds, and from screen doors.*

*I am from the vegetable gardens, the play forts in the woods.*

*I'm from family holiday gatherings and humbleness, from the Wardens and the Mitchells.*

*I'm from the bended knees and lifted prayers.*

*From love never fails and all in God's timing.*

*I'm from the small things make the biggest memories, the God on the mountain is still God in the valley.*

*I'm from hard work and sacrifice. From chicken n' dumplings and Mississippi mud cake.*

*From the long line of love.*

*I am from the small community, off the beaten path in south Mississippi.*

**by Naomi Colson**  
*a resident of Benndale and a member of Singing River Electric*

### What's Mississippi to you?

What do you treasure most about life in our state? Send your brief thoughts to *Today in Mississippi*, [news@ecm.coop](mailto:news@ecm.coop) or mail to P.O. Box 3300, Ridgeland, MS 39158



# Independent garden centers help INTENTIONAL GARDENERS

*One advantage of shopping at independent garden centers is their experience with local and regional plant selections and growing information.*

Garden and landscape planning for the 2021 season continues to move forward as we get closer to the day we can get back out into the garden full time.

If 2020 showed us one good thing, it's that huge numbers of people discovered the joys and benefits of gardening. As the calendar moves into better gardening weather, I hope most of the new gardeners from 2020 will continue their gardening practices.

This means there could be some horticultural shortages, so planning becomes even more important.

That's where becoming an intentional gardener will result in more garden enjoyment.

All intentional gardeners must decide where to buy landscape and garden plants. When putting my gardening skills to work in my home landscape, I often want to buy plants. When it's time to shop, I like to patronize the local, independent garden centers.

Sure, I could and sometimes do go to the big box or home improvement stores, but there is a huge difference between plant material bought from these sources and independent garden centers.

Now, I'm not knocking the selection of plants at these stores, and the quality of plants is really good most of the time. But most of these stores don't individually order plants for their garden departments. It's most common for these companies to have buyers in regional corporate offices contracting with big growers to supply their stores.

For example, there's a huge greenhouse grower outside of Auburn, Alabama, and this one facility supplies plants for more than 100 locations of a familiar home improvement store.

There are advantages of shopping at your local independent garden centers.

You can count on working with a knowledgeable staff. Many independents pride themselves for having experience with local and regional plant selections and growing information. Don't hesitate to ask questions because they'll have answers and suggestions for you to be successful.

These professionals are happy to give you personal assistance with your plant purchases. Many independent garden centers are associated with design and build or landscape maintenance divisions. They can offer a high level of services available besides the basic plant material.



*Local garden centers offer personal assistance and sometimes personalities such as Bob, the guard cat.*

The plant selections at independent garden centers are usually more extensive than those found at other outlets. And if they don't have what you're looking for, many will try to source it for you.

Independent garden centers typically work with an assortment of wholesale growers. Having a grower network like this can really be a benefit to the home gardener.

The last point I want to make maybe should have been my first. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and associated quarantines threatened the independent garden centers as businesses. In Mississippi, we were extremely fortunate that garden centers were deemed essential and could remain open. That situation could have changed at a moment's notice.

Independent garden centers rely on the customer base of the home gardener, as sales of consumer horticulture products account for 100% of their revenue. These sales are less than 5% of revenue for the big box stores.

I want to encourage all of us to be intentional and support our local independent garden centers this year. 🌱



**by Dr. Gary  
Bachman**

*Gary Bachman, Ph.D., Extension/Research Professor of Horticulture at the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi. He is also host of "Southern Gardening" radio and TV programs. He lives in Ocean Springs and is a Singing River Electric member.*



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# AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPRING

He was grand and gaudy and gigantic and entirely capable, by his simple presence, of soothing wounded spirits and mitigating dour moods. The week before there was snow. That was grand as well. But now this bird — deep black with a brilliant red head, its crown proudly pileated. Some white between the red and black.

He was a pileated woodpecker, one of the more commanding birds flitting about the woodlands. My daddy called them Indian Hens. No matter the name, I was early on enamored of them. And that call! It was and is unnerving, enchanting. And here he was, on an elm and then an oak, where snow was last week. I wished for his call. The situation would have been ornamented had he called, but he didn't. I watched in awe.

And that admirable observation somehow prompted my mind toward thoughts of spring. It was still some distance away that day, that day of the bird and that week after snow, but spring was coming. In fact, by the time these words are published, there are likely serious hints of spring budding from lawns and pastures and woods edges. And from tree branches. Even though Mississippi can sneak in the surprise snow or freeze or sleet-slicked walkways in March, time is short for the arrival of true spring.

Anglers and hunters are considering their potential and upcoming pursuits and how these relate to spring. The hunter will likely turn attention to turkeys. This bird is the premier candidate at such a time. There are some outdoors types among us who lose sleep and mental faculties in love with and planning for and frustration over this magnificent marvel. A strutting and gobbling tom is a thing of majesty — posturing and pirouetting, iridescent

hues shimmering in morning light.

And turkeys are challenging. Often it is that a hunter walks from the woods dejected, burdened with the heavy load of failure. Then again, failure is seldom true failure. To simply see a bird strut or hear him answer a cluck or yelp from the hunter's calling is a mighty reward. Add to that a pleasant spring morning, and the word failure is an affront to the blessings just experienced.

And fishing can be good in March. This in all probability applies to those seeking crappie. Depending upon weather conditions and water temperature, crappie may be in the shallows, preparing and tending beds. If they are not there because water temperatures are still a bit low, they most likely are holding near drops and shelves between deep and shallow. But some prospecting can point the way, and once fish are found they will generally be in abundance.

Spring is here or certainly on the way. Whatever your springtime outdoor pursuit, the time for it is close at hand. And while out there, keep an eye and ear attuned for the pileated woodpecker. Location of such will enhance any outing. 



**by Tony Kinton**

*Tony Kinton has been an active outdoors writer for 30 years. He lives in Carthage and is a Central Electric member. Visit [www.tonykinton.com](http://www.tonykinton.com) for more information.*



*There are few sights more captivating than strutting turkeys on a spring morning.*



# RIGHT-OF-WAY

## maintains reliability and aesthetics

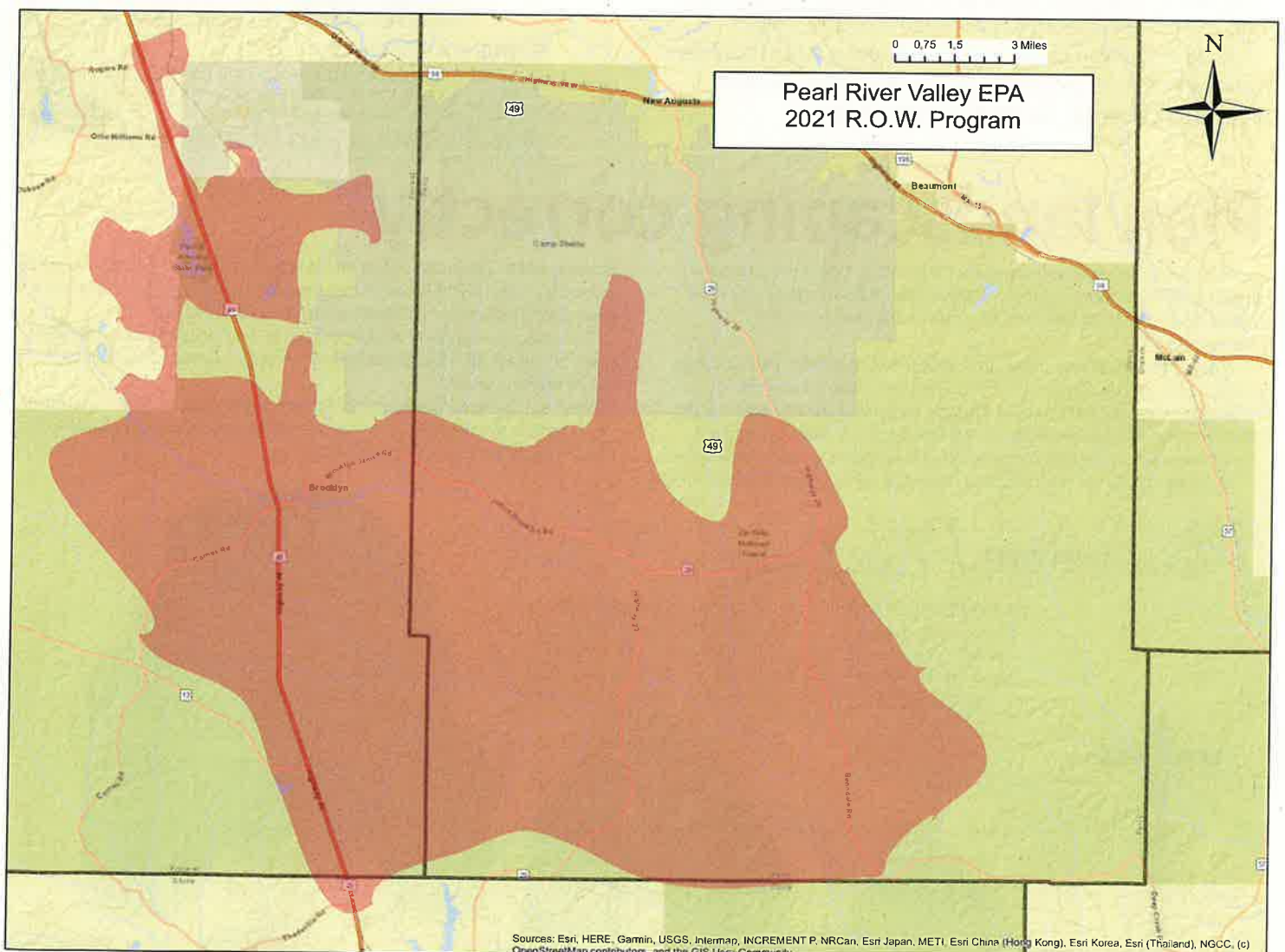
In almost 82 years, Pearl River Valley Electric's distribution system has grown to meet the demand of over 51,000 members. The system now includes more than 6,000 miles of power lines throughout a 12-county service area. To maintain the integrity of the system and to ensure public safety, PRVEPA runs an extensive right-of-way program.

We want members to understand that maintaining right-of-way (ROW) is not an inconvenience, it's a necessity. Controlling vegetation within our ROW assures safe access for employees when they are troubleshooting outages and repairing downed power lines.

Clearing brush and other low-growing vegetation is accom-

plished by a combination of trimming and cutting trees, bush-hogging and herbicide application. We use off-the-shelf, non-restrictive herbicides because they are effective, economical and environmentally friendly. They are not harmful to humans, pets or livestock. Managing vegetation in this way also allows native grasses and wildflowers to grow, thereby improving the aesthetics and wildlife habitat along the ROW.

The map below shows where contract crews will be clearing trees, removing underbrush and mowing ROW in the upcoming months. Please visit the technical services category in our help center on our website [www.prvepa.com](http://www.prvepa.com) for a more detailed map.





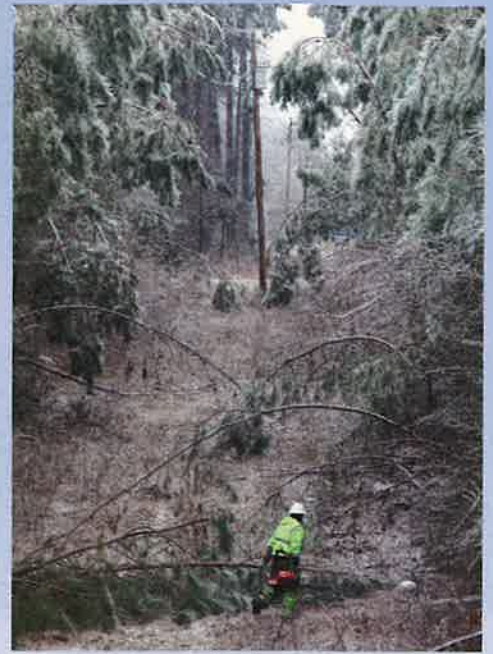
# Ice storm causes MAJOR OUTAGES

Pearl River Valley Electric, along with other cooperatives across the state, faced a historic winter storm that included freezing rain, sleet, snow, and frigid temperatures.

The February 15 ice storm brought extensive outages and damage to Pearl River Valley Electric's infrastructure in Marion County, Lawrence County, Jeff Davis County, Walthall County and Lamar County. At the height of the storm, we had over 3,500 members without power.

Over the course of three days, linemen and servicemen battled through inclement weather to restore power. Most of the damage came from limbs and trees coming down on power lines.

We would also like to thank MDR and Looks Great Services for their help in our restoration efforts.



PRVEPA crews along with Looks Great Services survey damage.



Above: PRVEPA Line Crew Foreman Tony Baughman and his line crew work to restore power near Society Hill in Jeff Davis County.





# NEARLY \$3 MILLION in preservation grants awarded

The Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History recently awarded nearly \$3 million on behalf of the Community Heritage Preservation Grant program to 18 preservation and restoration projects from across the state. The Community Heritage Preservation Grant program, authorized and funded by the Mississippi Legislature, helps preserve and restore historic courthouses and schools in Certified Local Government communities and other historic properties.

"The Legislature has saved hundreds of significant Mississippi properties through this program," MDAH Director Katie Blount said in a news release. "The Department of Archives and History is grateful for the Legislature's support and pleased to be able to help preserve these local treasures."

Grant awards are paid on a reimbursable basis upon the successful completion of the entire project or at the time of the completion of pre-established phases of the project. Prior to application, all buildings must have been designated Mississippi Landmarks. Only county or municipal governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations granted Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service may submit applications.

To become a Certified Local Government, a community must adopt a preservation ordinance establishing a preservation commission in accordance with federal and state guidelines. Once the commission has been established, application for CLG status may be made to the National Park Service through the Department of Archives and History. MDAH works closely with local government officials and citizens to help them create and manage a workable local historic preservation program. ❁



Franklin County Courthouse



Noxubee County Library



Natchez City Hall



(Old) Madison County Jail

## The grant awards are as follows:

**House on Ellicott's Hill, Natchez, Adams County**  
— \$210,400 for restoration of the front gallery of the building.

**Natchez City Hall, Natchez, Adams County**  
— \$157,056 for replacement of the roof.

**Corinth Coliseum Theater, Corinth, Alcorn County**  
— \$236,234 for replacement of the roof and ADA upgrades.

**Chickasaw County Courthouse, Houston, Chickasaw County** — \$226,677 for repairs to the roof and other interior repairs.

**G.L. Hawkins Elementary, Hattiesburg, Forrest County** — \$35,200 for roof repairs.

**Franklin County Courthouse, Meadville, Franklin County** — \$144,388 for window and masonry restoration, and reroofing of the jail.

**Wechsler School, Meridian, Lauderdale County** — \$277,154 for interior and exterior rehabilitation.

**(Old) Monticello Elementary, Monticello, Lawrence County** — \$40,000 for structural repairs and asbestos report and abatement.

**Stephen D. Lee House, Columbus, Lowndes County** — \$25,600 for front porch roof replacement.

**Tennessee Williams House, Columbus, Lowndes County** — \$35,000 for rebuilding of the front porch.

**(Old) Madison County Jail, Canton, Madison County** — \$250,250 for rear wall repair and roofing.

**Marion County Courthouse, Columbia, Marion County** — \$225,940 for window restoration.

**Isaac Chapel (Rosenwald School), Byhalia, Marshall County** — \$268,744 for interior and exterior restoration.

**Noxubee County Library, Macon, Noxubee County** — \$200,044 for clay tile roof replacement and exterior restoration.

**Pontotoc County Courthouse, Pontotoc, Pontotoc County** — \$239,753 for window and masonry restoration.

**Quitman County Courthouse, Marks, Quitman County** — \$184,792 for exterior and interior rehabilitation.

**(Old) Vicksburg Library, Vicksburg, Warren County** — \$103,370 for electrical upgrades, window and door restoration, and boiler removal.

**Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation, Vicksburg, Warren County** — \$89,056 for repair to the auditorium's south wall.





# A MEMORIAL FOR THE FANS, SURVIVORS AND RESCUERS

by Steven Ward

They were first responders before the official first responders arrived on the scene.

Dennis Wilson, Bobby McDaniel and Dwain Easley all lived close to the pine tree-scattered terrain in Gillsburg where a plane crashed the night of Oct. 20, 1977.

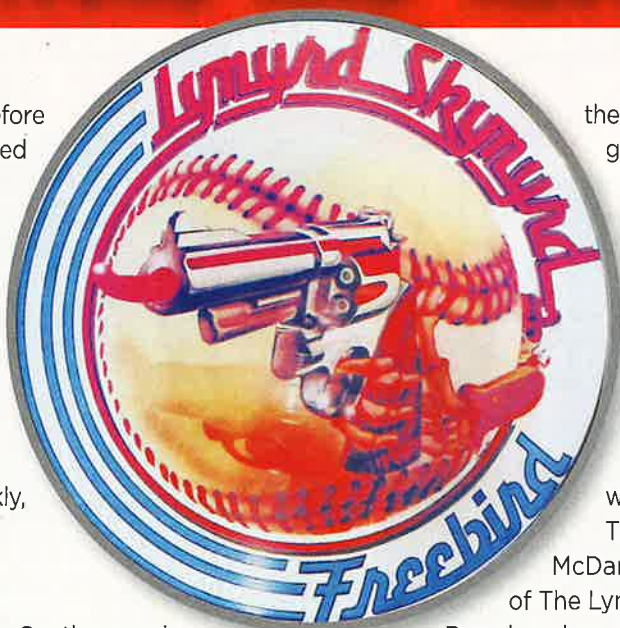
Wilson, McDaniel, Easley and others in the area had no idea who was on the plane and, frankly, they didn't care.

They just wanted to help any survivors.

The plane was transporting the Southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd from Greenville, South Carolina to a concert in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The Convair CV-240 passenger plane ran out of fuel and crashed right after dusk in the woods of Gillsburg. The crash killed Lynyrd Skynyrd lead singer and songwriter Ronnie Van Zant, guitarist Steve Gaines, Gaines' sister, Cassie Gaines, a backup singer, assistant road manager Dean Kilpatrick and the pilot and co-pilot.

Wilson, McDaniel and Easley — all in their early 20s at the time — carried bodies and survivors from the plane through



the swampy and muddy muck of the ground to a nearby road.

The plane was carrying 26 people. Six were killed and 20 survived.

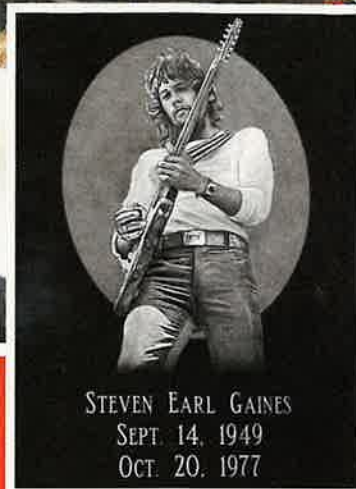
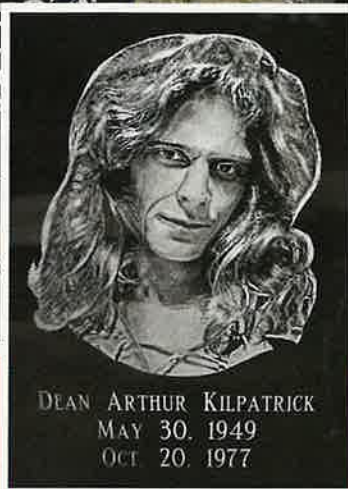
Today, about 800 yards from the actual site of the crash, fans of the band and tourists have a place to go to pay their respects to the people who lost their lives that night and to visit a spot where a piece of somber rock history was made.

Thanks to the efforts of Wilson, McDaniel, Easley and other members of The Lynyrd Skynyrd Monument Project Board, a plane crash memorial was erected and opened to the public in October 2019.

"At the time of the crash, I was not familiar with Lynyrd Skynyrd, however, thousands of people were," said Wilson, 70, a board member of Magnolia Electric Power, the electric cooperative that provides service to the Gillsburg area.

"The monument has been visited by fans from 45 states and eight foreign countries. Fans and followers will continue to visit the monument for years to come. I think it will have a very positive impact on our local economy here," Wilson said.





Visit [lynnyrdskynyrdmarker.com](http://lynnyrdskynyrdmarker.com) for more information about the monument or to make a donation.

The gamechanger for the monument was when Mississippi lawmakers, led by State Rep. Becky Currie, R-Brookhaven, passed a bill to put exit signs on Interstate 55 alerting motorists to the Gillsburg/Magnolia exit as the location of the monument.

Currie, who was a nursing student at the time of the crash and worked at Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center in McComb as a currier, was at the hospital that night in 1977.

"So I knew all of the people that worked getting the monument together. Many I had seen that night bringing people to the ER," Currie said.

"I am now a registered nurse and member of the Mississippi House of Representatives and if I could do one more thing for a band I loved it was my honor to make sure a sign was erected to mark the monument and hope that people would see it and come and spend some time there," she said.

McDaniel said the monument gets up to 40 to 50 visitors a day during the week and more than 100 visitors on weekends, according to their guestbook. Many of those visitors credit the



interstate signs for their decision to stop, he said.

McDaniel and Wilson said it's possible that the monument will be expanded in the future to include a small museum nearby.

"Southwest Mississippi doesn't get a lot of positive press or new industry. The Lynyrd Skynyrd Monument is a positive thing that brings some good

people and nice compliments to the Magnolia/Gillsburg area," McDaniel said.

Wilson, McDaniel and Easley were there at the beginning of a nightmarish time in rock history when a tragic disaster occurred in their backyard.

"Once we arrived on the scene, we were focused on helping the survivors get medical treatment. It seemed like a vast undertaking at the time due to the remote location and very limited equipment that we had," Wilson said.

"However, we were just country folks helping a few people that needed help. That's just what we do," Wilson added.

Today, they are still there trying to do the right thing for the band, their fans and their community. ✿



for the love of the game

# JAKE MANGUM

'Mississippi State was the best four years of my life'

Jake Mangum comes from a family of athletes. Jake's dad, John Jr., was a speedy quarterback at Magee High School before signing with Alabama. He was later a standout player for the Crimson Tide as a defensive back. John Jr. then played for the Chicago Bears for nine seasons. Jake's grandfather played at Ole Miss and Southern Mississippi before heading to pro football. "Big John" played two years with the Boston Patriots of the American Football League. Jake's uncle Kris played at Alabama and then transferred to Ole Miss, where he became an All-SEC selection at tight end. Kris also followed into the family business playing for the Carolina Panthers for 10 seasons.

Jake decided that baseball, not football, was his future heading into his sophomore year at Jackson Prep. He decided to give up the "Friday Night Lights" to concentrate full-time on baseball. It has worked out pretty well for the first two-time winner of the C-Spire Ferris Trophy given to the Most Outstanding College Baseball Player in Mississippi by the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. Today, Jake is a professional baseball player playing for the Brooklyn Cyclones in the NY-Penn League in Class A baseball. The Cyclones are affiliated with the New York Mets baseball organization. "My plan is to play pro ball as long as I can, and hopefully that is a very long time," said Mangum.

Before heading to Brooklyn and the bright lights, Jake made a four-year stop in Starkville. Many thought Jake might head to his dad's alma mater Alabama out of Jackson Prep to play his collegiate baseball. "I really prayed about it, but in the end, I thought Mississippi State was where I was being led to go." Jake went on to say, "Starkville is the best place to be. Everyone knows everybody there. It is a big college in a small town, and it was an awesome experience," said Mangum. Jake was given the nickname "The Mayor" by one of his Mississippi State baseball teammates because he seemed to know everyone around town.



"I tell everyone that playing baseball at Mississippi State was the best four years of my life."

His MSU baseball career under John Cohen, however, did not start out as he had expected. "The entire team ranks every player on the fall roster before leaving for Christmas break. I was ranked second from the bottom." He was surprised at the ranking because he thought he had had a decent fall season. "I knew I could hit, so my goal was to just get on the field." He proved himself worthy as he ended up hitting .427 in SEC games, was named the SEC Freshman of the Year and was awarded the Ferris Trophy.

Mangum continued his extraordinary baseball play for the next three seasons and finished his career ranked No. 4 in NCAA history with 383 hits. He also broke the MSU and SEC hit records. Mangum broke the SEC hits record at home in front of his elated family and Bulldog fans. Though the hit was special, Mangum confessed his relief at having the pressure of breaking the record over with. He had been constantly reminded everywhere he went by his loyal fans of the impending moment.

Mangum led the Bulldogs to the College World Series in his final two seasons, and he stated that is the Mississippi State way. "My one regret is that we didn't win the National Championship." Mangum, however, is confident that the Bulldogs will finally realize their ultimate dream of winning the National Championship. 🌟



by Dale McKee

Dale McKee is a Waynesboro native who has been writing sports in Mississippi since 1973. Contact him at [ddmckee18@yahoo.com](mailto:ddmckee18@yahoo.com).



## Mustard Glazed Baked Corned Beef Brisket

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (approximately 3 pound) whole corned beef brisket
- ¼ cup whole grain mustard
- 1 tablespoon dark brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons pickling spice blend (such as the McCormick brand if spice packet is not included in corned beef packet)

Place wrack in middle position of oven. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9 by 13 baking pan with oil. Rinse corn beef in cold water and pat dry. Place the corned beef fatty side up in the baking pan.

Combine mustard, brown sugar and vinegar in a small bowl. Brush mustard mixture over the top and sides of the corned beef. Sprinkle packet of seasoning (if included) or pickling spice over the surface of the beef.

Cover baking pan tightly with foil tenting slightly so foil does not touch surface of beef. Bake 3 hours or until beef is tender with an internal temperature of 165 degrees. Remove the foil and set oven on broil. Broil the beef until browned on top. Allow the corned beef to rest for 15 minutes before slicing against the grain. Serve with sautéed cabbage, carrots, and onions, if desired.



*This plump, golden loaf is easy to make and doesn't require any time to rise. The piping hot loaf can be on the table in under an hour. Try adding ¼ cup toasted nuts, dried fruits or cheese to this recipe to make it your own.*

## Irish Soda Bread

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking soda
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons cold unsalted butter cut in small pieces
- 1 ½ cups plus 1 tablespoon buttermilk, divided
- 1 large egg, beaten

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment or spray lightly with oil.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Cut in the butter with a couple of forks or a pastry blender until the mixture looks like uncooked oatmeal.

Make a well in the center and add 1 ½ cups of the buttermilk and the egg. Stir with a sturdy spoon until you have a shaggy dough. Tip the dough out on to a lightly floured surface and knead gently to bring the dough together. Form into a 6-inch round loaf. Place on the baking sheet. Brush the top of the loaf with the remaining 1 tablespoon of buttermilk. With a serrated knife cut a shallow X in the top of the loaf.

Bake for 10 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 375 degrees. Bake for 35 minutes until loaf is deep golden brown and sounds hollow when thumped. Cool on a wire rack.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Martha Hall Foote, the author of "Screen Doors & Sweet Tea: Recipes and Tales of a Southern Cook," won the James Beard Award for American Cooking. Her latest collaboration is "A Good Meal is Hard to Find: Storied Recipes from the Deep South" with Amy C. Evans. Martha makes her home in the Mississippi Delta with her husband and son. She is a member of Yazoo Valley Electric Power Association.



# RAISING THE *Spirits*

It was after midnight. The flashlight lay on the floor of the darkened room. There were five or six of us standing around watching it. One of the crew called out, "On the count of three, turn on this flashlight. One. Two. Three." And the flashlight lit up by itself! "If you want us to leave, turn it off." And all of a sudden, the room was totally dark again. Only we didn't leave. Someone else called out, "If you're a female, light the light again." And it lit. Someone else asked, "What's your name?" Now, I'm new to ghost hunting, but even I figured that would be a tough question to answer by just turning a flashlight on or off, unless they spelled it out in Morse code.

This was a ghost investigation. Why was I there? Well, there are a lot of ghost hunting television shows running right now and one of the people I work with at the TV station knows a guy who is the head of a paranormal group. They do "investigations" of old houses, hotels, theaters and places like that all the time. So, a few of us tagged along with his group to see what we could see — or what we COULDN'T see, as would be the case with ghosts.

I guess I come by ghost hunting through heredity. My granddaddy tracked down every ghost story he could in Itawamba County. He WANTED to see a ghost. It would prove that there is life after death. He never found anything that he couldn't explain.

In the back of our minds, we have the idea that we'd like to do our own version of a ghost hunting TV show but different from the ones already running. We're still working on how that would actually look.



I think there is a desire to prove life after death. Even the disciple Thomas wouldn't believe Jesus had risen from the dead unless he could see for himself. When he saw, he believed. And it didn't take a flashlight blinking, either.

Years ago, I did a story about one of the old tour homes in Natchez that was supposed to be haunted. I interviewed the manager. She lived on the premises. So, after the home closed for tours for the day, she would be there all alone until the next morning. I had to ask her if there was anything to the ghost stories. She told me about a few of her experiences. And as I was leaving, I asked her if it would be okay to run some of her ghost tales on televi-

sion. She said, "By all means. It helps so much with security!"

So maybe that can be our take — we're not ghost hunting — we're helping with security to scare people so they would never try to break in. 'Course, any house that scary I'd never go into in the first place. But it may work. Blink once if you think you'd watch a show like that. ✖



**by Walt Grayson**

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